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### tra·verse

(click to hear the word) (trə-vûrs', trāv'ərs)

**v. tra-versed, tra-vers-ing, tra-vers-es**

**v. tr.**

1. To travel or pass across, over, or through.
2. To move to and fro over; cross and recross.
3. To go up, down, or across (a slope) diagonally, as in skiing.
4. To cause to move laterally on a pivot; swivel: *traverse an artillery piece.*
5. To extend across; cross: *a bridge that traverses a river.*
6. To look over carefully; examine.
7. To go counter to; thwart.
8. Law
  - a. To deny formally (an allegation of fact by the opposing party) in a suit. See Synonyms at deny.
  - b. To join issue upon (an indictment).
9. To survey by traverse.
10. Nautical To brace (a yard) fore and aft.

**v. intr.**

1. To move to the side or back and forth.
2. To turn laterally; swivel.
3.
  - a. To go up, down, or across a slope diagonally or in a zigzag manner, as in skiing.
  - b. To slide one's blade with pressure toward the hilt of the opponent's foil in fencing.

### n. trav·erse

(trāv'ərs, trə-vûrs')

1. A passing across, over, or through.
2. A route or path across or over.
3. Something that lies across, especially:
  - a. An intersecting line; a transversal.
  - b. Architecture A structural crosspiece; a transom.
  - c. A gallery, deck, or loft crossing from one side of a building to the other.
  - d. A railing, curtain, screen, or similar barrier.
  - e. A defensive barrier across a rampart or trench, as a bank of earth thrown up to protect against enfilade fire.

4. Something that obstructs and thwarts; an obstacle.
5. *Nautical* The zigzag route of a vessel forced by contrary winds to sail on different courses.
6. A zigzag or diagonal course on a steep slope, as in skiing.
7.
  - a. A lateral movement, as of a lathe tool across a piece of wood.
  - b. A part of a mechanism that moves in this manner.
  - c. The lateral swivel of a mounted gun.
8. A line established by sighting in surveying a tract of land.
9. *Law* A formal denial of the opposing party's allegation of fact in a suit.

**adj.** *trav·er·se* (trāv'ərs, trə-vûrs')

Lying or extending across; transverse.

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[Middle English *traversen*, from Old French *traverser*, from Vulgar Latin \**trāversāre*, from Late Latin *trānsversāre*, from Latin *trānsversus*, *transverse*; see *transverse*.]


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*trav·ers·a·ble* *adj.*

*trav·ers·al* *n.*

*trav·ers·er* *n.*

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